



For Release: Friday, October 13, 2017

17-1409-PHI

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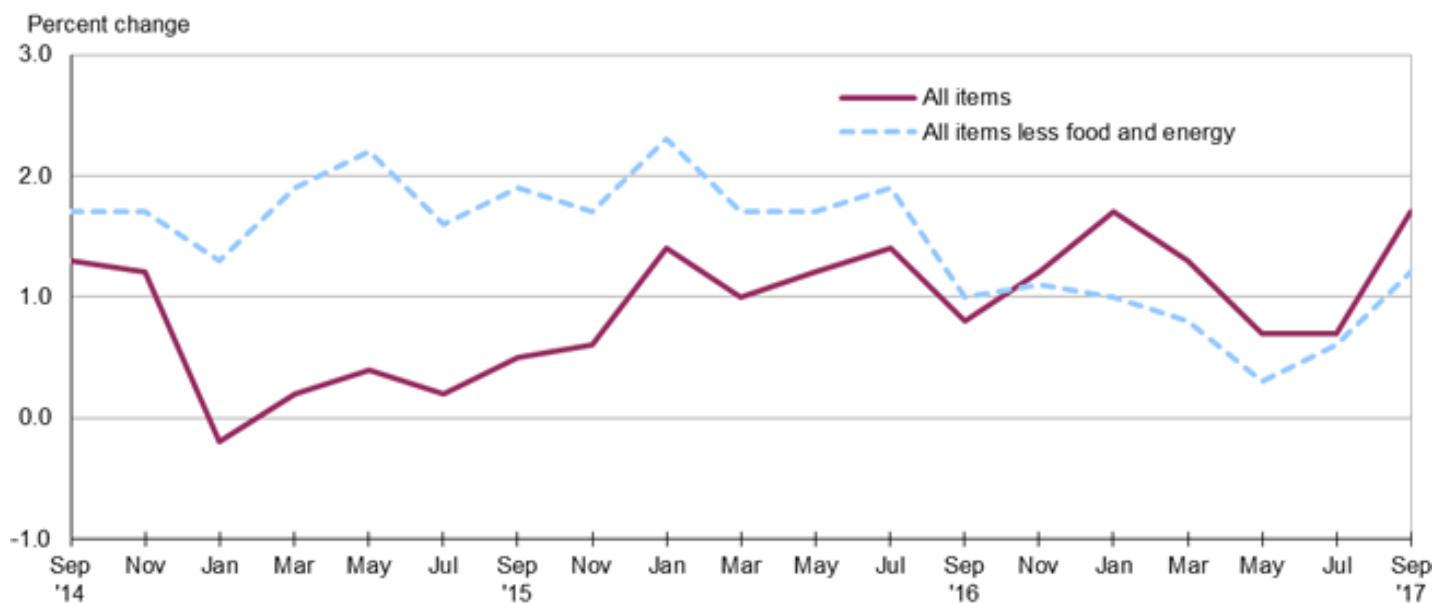
Consumer Price Index, Washington-Baltimore – September 2017

Area prices up 0.9 percent since July; up 1.7 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Washington-Baltimore increased 0.9 percent from July to September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that the all items less food and energy index and the energy index increased over the last two months, up 0.6 and 5.2 percent, respectively. The food index also increased, up 0.7 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.7 percent, mainly reflecting a 1.2-percent increase in the all items less food and energy index. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Since September 2016, the energy index and the food index both increased, up 9.2 and 1.5 percent, respectively. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Washington, D.C., September 2014–September 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

After decreasing 0.1 percent from May to July, the food index rose 0.7 percent over the last two months. Prices for food at home increased 0.7 percent, and those for food away from home rose 0.6 percent. Within the food at home component, higher prices for various items including eggs and processed fish and seafood were moderated by lower prices for bread and potatoes, among others.

Food prices increased 1.5 percent over the year. Prices were higher for both food away from home and food at home since last September, up 2.6 and 0.6 percent, respectively.

Energy

Since July, the energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, advanced 5.2 percent, due to higher prices for gasoline, up 17.3 percent. Lower prices for utility (piped) gas service (-12.1 percent) and electricity (-1.5 percent) moderated the increase since July.

Energy prices rose 9.2 percent over the year. The advance was led by a 20.5-percent increase in gasoline prices. Prices also increased over the year for utility (piped) gas service (8.7 percent), while those for electricity declined (-1.0 percent).

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent since July. Higher prices for a number of items, including shelter (0.9 percent) and apparel (10.8 percent), were moderated by price decreases for recreation (-1.3 percent) and new and used motor vehicles, among others.

Since September 2016, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent. Higher prices for a number of items, including shelter (1.8 percent) and medical care (2.4 percent), contributed to the 12-month increase in the all items less food and energy index.

Table A. Washington, D.C. CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.1	1.8	0.4	1.9	-1.0	-0.2	-0.2	1.4	0.2	1.7
March	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.6	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.3	1.3
May	-0.2	1.2	0.4	2.2	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.7
July	0.5	1.9	0.0	1.7	-0.2	0.2	-0.1	1.4	0.0	0.7
September.....	0.6	1.2	0.2	1.3	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.8	0.9	1.7
November.....	-0.2	1.7	-0.4	1.2	-0.3	0.6	0.1	1.2		

The Consumer Price Index for November 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, Washington DC and Baltimore will have separate indexes. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Washington-Baltimore is published bi-monthly. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.









































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson in West Virginia.





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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., (December 1997=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
All items(1)		158.850		160.293	1.7	0.9	
Food and beverages(1)		158.139		159.027	1.4	0.6	
Food(1)		159.571		160.622	1.5	0.7	
Food at home		146.597	147.150	147.630	0.6	0.7	0.3
Food away from home(2)		173.574		174.627	2.6	0.6	
Alcoholic beverages(2)		138.077		136.727	0.0	-1.0	
Housing(1)		173.451		174.155	1.6	0.4	
Shelter		184.947	184.886	186.540	1.8	0.9	0.9
Rent of primary residence(1)(3)		207.559	207.319	208.288	2.6	0.4	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(3)(4)		185.146	185.032	185.643	1.4	0.3	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(3)(4)		185.141	185.021	185.634	1.4	0.3	0.3
Fuels and utilities		203.299		197.332	1.1	-2.9	
Household energy		192.932	191.334	185.945	1.0	-3.6	-2.8
Gas (piped) and electricity(3)		186.034	184.670	179.028	0.8	-3.8	-3.1
Electricity(3)		193.373	193.284	190.471	-1.0	-1.5	-1.5
Utility (piped) gas service(3)		145.413	140.676	127.830	8.7	-12.1	-9.1
Household furnishings and operations		86.921		86.990	0.3	0.1	
Apparel(1)		98.921		109.650	0.5	10.8	
Transportation(1)		141.143		143.871	4.1	1.9	
Private transportation		138.848		142.078	4.0	2.3	
Motor fuel		196.693	203.522	230.523	20.3	17.2	13.3
Gasoline (all types)		196.573	203.426	230.558	20.5	17.3	13.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)		194.285	201.369	228.885	20.9	17.8	13.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)		211.628	216.478	241.913	17.8	14.3	11.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)		218.726	223.895	248.159	17.0	13.5	10.8
Medical care(1)		189.072		189.131	2.4	0.0	
Recreation		115.431		113.904	-0.8	-1.3	
Education and communication		150.130		151.819	0.2	1.1	
Other goods and services(1)		178.177		178.513	-0.7	0.2	
Commodity and service group							
Commodities		124.796		127.841	1.5	2.4	
Commodities less food and beverages		106.739		110.661	1.5	3.7	
Nondurables less food and beverages		136.610		146.901	5.3	7.5	
Durables		76.683		76.363	-2.4	-0.4	
Services		181.875		182.172	1.8	0.2	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter		145.962		147.326	1.7	0.9	
All items less medical care(1)		156.905		158.446	1.7	1.0	
Commodities less food		108.157		111.943	1.5	3.5	
Nondurables		147.091		152.423	3.1	3.6	
Nondurables less food		136.871		146.361	4.9	6.9	
Services less rent of shelter		179.088		177.946	1.9	-0.6	

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., (December 1997=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Sep. 2016	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017
Services less medical care services.....		181.104		181.386	1.8	0.2	
Energy(1).....		194.149	196.062	204.166	9.2	5.2	4.1
All items less energy		155.384		156.351	1.2	0.6	
All items less food and energy(1).....		155.690		156.651	1.2	0.6	

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a November 1997=100 base.

(3) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(4) This index series underwent a change in composition in January 2010. The expenditure class now includes weight from secondary residences, and has been re-titled "Owners' equivalent rent of residences." The item stratum "Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence" excludes secondary residences.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.